

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 5 to 13.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Final Rejection.

In this regard, claims 5 to 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-A-58-98085.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Final Rejection notes, the cited reference, while disclosing a general method for the culture of microorganisms employing a pH regulating agent, fails to disclose or suggest the presently recited control of fermentation with a predetermined lower limit pH of claim 5.

Further, in accordance with new claim 9, there is employed a predetermined upper pH limit at which point, substrate is fed and lower limit of pH at which point, alkaline solution is fed. This is also not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference.

Still further, the above method applied to the formation of polylactic acid or ethanol as recited in new claims 10 and 11 is also not disclosed nor suggested.

Lastly, the method of controlling glucose feed according to the equations set forth in new claims 12 and 13 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the reference.

Accordingly, the rejection on the cited reference is untenable and should be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any proposals or suggestions to expedite prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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